



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESEVE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, November 3, 2011

**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

PRESENT: Howard Myers, Chairman
James Heitel, Vice Chairman
Susan Wheeler, Commissioner
Rand Hubbell, Commissioner (arrived 5:17 p.m.)
Deke Joralmon, Commissioner (telephonic)
Marg Nelssen, Commissioner

ABSENT: Fred Klein, Commissioner

STAFF: Bill Murphy
Kroy Ekblaw
Claire Miller
Robbin Schweitzer
Scott Hamilton
Dave Meinhart
Reed Kempton
Jim Ford

GUESTS: Mike Nolan
David Hay
Joanie Millavec

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present as noted above.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of October 6, 2011

COMMISSIONER NELSEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 6, 2011, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION. SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR HEITEL, THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER HUBBELL WAS NOT YET PRESENT, AND COMMISSIONER KLEIN WAS ABSENT.

5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Mr. Nolan gave an update on activities at the Conservancy including the steward program, the patrol schedule, work projects completed in September and October, Pathfinders, the Trailside Naturalist Program, research programs including the flora inventory and fauna studies, student interns, and outreach events. He noted that the Conservancy is working closely with Chet Andrews and his family in planning the dedication event for the Chet Andrews Amphitheater, which will be kept as small as possible.

6. JOINT MEETING WITH THE MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY BOARD

Mr. Murphy suggested that the joint meeting with the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Board be scheduled to follow the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission's regular meeting. After some discussion it was suggested that the chair and vice chair of the Preserve Commission attend the next board meeting in December to update the board about commission and interest in future date to meet.

7. NORTH AREA TRANSPORTATION PLAN/128TH STREET

Chair Myers noted that the question the Commission had was whether vehicular access could be routed along the western alignment of the Preserve and connect to either Ranch Gate or 128th Street, leaving 128th Street within the Preserve Boundary to be used only for emergency access.

Dave Meinhart, Transportation Director, gave a background of the project focusing on the 128th Street connection from Dynamite to the Preserve boundary, Ranch Gate Road, Jomax, circulation plans, and challenges with access management.

Discussion ensued between the Commission and Dave Meinhart, Jim Ford, and Scott Hamilton regarding the water system, easements related to emergency access, possible improvements to Dynamite Boulevard, Arizona Game and Fish wildlife movement studies, and trailheads.

Mr. Ford explained that the entire area is being master planned for access for firebreaks and trails. Consideration is being given to how the powerline easements could be used instead of some of the trails. Technical rescue teams will be stationed close to the Preserve and trailheads.

8. BYLAWS UPDATE

Mr. Murphy distributed the draft bylaws update and asked that Commissioners submit any comments prior to the next meeting.

9. DISSOLUTION OF BOARD/COMMISSION COMMITTEES

Mr. Murphy explained that based on Council action the Commission needed to dissolve all of its committees, including the Land Resources Task Force. He explained that new committees that have a sunset provision could be formed in the future with Council approval.

Commissioners were given an opportunity to ask questions.

COMMISSIONER WHEELER MOVED TO DISSOLVE THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION PLANNING COMMITTEE, PROMOTION COMMITTEE, AND LAND RESOURCE TASK FORCE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NELSEN, THE MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER KLEIN WAS ABSENT.

10. MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Murphy announced that nine of the ten management plan items discussed by the Commission were presented to Council and approved. The Special Use Guidelines are agendaized for discussion during the December MSPC meeting. Staff has been working together with the planning group and the Conservancy on research, has had a meeting with fire and the police department on forming an emergency management group, and is considering a natural resource plan. Remaining items on the management plan are being fine-tuned for implementation.

11. STAFF REPORTS

- **Land Acquisition Update**

Mr. Murphy noted that the land acquisition item will go to City Council for legal advice on December 6 and the auctions are set for December 7 and 14 at the State Land Department.

Mr. Hamilton noted that staff is in the process of submitting purchase applications for land acquisition for Fall 2012 as well as three Growing Smarter applications.

- **North Area Update**

Tom's Thumb Update

Mr. Hamilton noted that the plant salvage has been completed. Construction is expected to be completed in late spring or summer of 2012. The contractor is making an effort to be understanding of the sensitivities of the Preserve and public access.

Brown's Ranch

Mr. Hamilton highlighted citizen comments during the recent open house and noted that plans are scheduled to go to the Planning Commission on December 14 and to the Development Review Board on December 15 with the hope of obtaining a Council date in early January. Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2012.

Planning Efforts

Mr. Hamilton noted that north area planning is in the process of forming a preliminary discussion group made up of members knowledgeable about trails in the area. The group will evaluate the necessity and locations of existing minor neighborhood access points, start actively closing gates and putting up signage, and developing a logical naming system for trails. A general public open house discussion will be scheduled early next year.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions.

APS

Mr. Hamilton noted that gates have been installed at four different locations, and vehicle access will be restricted in the construction zone. Salvaged cactus are staged at 118th Street and Dynamite and many have been used in mitigation projects in the Tom's Thumb area.

Recent Work Projects Update

Ms. Miller reviewed work projects ongoing with the Conservancy, student projects, corporate groups, and Eagle Scouts.

- **Financial Update**
- **Desert Discovery Center Phase III Feasibility Committee**

Mr. Murphy said that because Mr. Ekblaw was currently presenting at the Bond Task Force meeting, he would have the minutes from the Desert Discovery Center Phase III Feasibility Committee meeting forwarded to the Commission.

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

In response to a question by Commissioner Wheeler, Mr. Murphy noted that Joan Fudala is continuing her work on the Preserve History. The completed videos are available at the Civic Center Library.

Commissioner Joralmon said that he was remiss in his resignation letter in not thanking the Conservancy.

13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DECEMBER 1, 2011/JANUARY 5, 2012

- **Special Use Guidelines**
- **McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Agreement Update**
- **Tour – January 12, 2012, 2:30 p.m.**

The Commission discussed the December agenda items and considered combining the meeting with the community meeting and tentatively moved the January meeting date to January 12. Election of officers and ethics training will be included on the January meeting agenda.

Mr. Ekblaw arrived and gave an update on the DDC Phase III Feasibility Committee activities and the progress of acquisitions.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.